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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ulrich Braun

) Examiner:

Serial No.:

) Group Art Unit:

Filed: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR
SEWAGE TREATMENT

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) Dated: 01/11/02 By: KA Cabello
Kim A. Cabello

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified continuation application, please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification

10 Page 1, line 1, please add the following sentence: "The present application is a continuation of a co-pending application Serial No. 09/445,249, filed June 5, 2000, entitled "METHOD AND DEVICE FOR SEWAGE TREATMENT," the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

In the Claims

15 Please CANCEL claims 1-30.

Please ADD the following new claims:

31. A method of treating sewage; said method comprising:

separately collecting black water;

selectively performing liquid/solid separation of said black water; and

20 performing fermentation of solids of said black water.

32. A method of utilizing waste waters; said method comprising:

separately collecting faecal waste water with urine separation toilets;

selectively performing liquid/solid separation of said faecal waste water; and
performing fermentation of solids of said faecal waste water.

33. A method of treating sewage; said method comprising:
separately collecting faecal waste water with urine separation toilets; and
5 performing fermentation of said faecal waste water.

34. A method of utilizing black water; said method comprising:

- (a) separately collecting black water from toilets with or without urinals;
- (b) selectively performing liquid/solid separation of the black water collected in (a);
- (c) performing oxidation by microorganisms of a liquid phase obtained in (b);
- 10 (d) performing solid/liquid separation of the product obtained in (c);
- (e) selectively utilizing the liquid phase obtained in (d) for at least one of:
 - (i) collecting black water according to (a); and
 - (ii) as mineral fertilizer;

and

15 (f) optionally repeating (a) through (e) one or more times.

REMARKS

Claims 31-34 are all the claims pending in the present application, claims 1-30 having been canceled. The addition of claims 31-34 does not introduce new matter.

20 Applicant respectfully submits that claims 31-34 are allowable, and consequently, that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early favorable action on the merits is requested.

25 Respectfully Submitted,
PILLSBURY WINTHROP, LLP

Dated: January 11, 2002

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